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Micronaire Readings

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JUN 28 1963

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a new service for COTTON PRODUCERS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
COTTON DIVISION
JUNE 1963 AMS-505

WHAT IS A MICRONAIRE READING?

A micronaire reading is a measurement of cotton fiber fineness by means of airflow instruments. It is also an indication of fiber maturity.

It is another measurement of the quality of cotton in addition to the traditional classing by grade and staple length.

To determine a micronaire reading, a sample of cotton weighing 50 grains, or a little over one-tenth of an ounce, is compressed in an airflow instrument and air is forced through it. The instrument indicator shows the amount of air flowing through the cotton in terms of micronaire reading. Air will flow more freely through the coarser cotton.

The lower the reading on the micronaire scale, the finer and less mature is the cotton.

HOW IS THE MICRONAIRE READING USED BY MILLS?

Mills use the micronaire reading to control the quality of their raw cotton mix. In order to maintain quality and production, mills need to know the exact quality and nature of the cotton they buy.

Micronaire readings give the mills more accurate control of end-product quality and help minimize processing difficulties.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO THE PRODUCER ?

Micronaire readings furnish the producer another measurement of the quality of his cotton.

It gives him a better basis for marketing his cotton according to its end-use value.

Since some mills purchase within a limited range of micronaire readings to obtain the quality of cotton they desire, they generally pay premium prices for these even running qualities.

With micronaire readings now available to the producer, he is in a better position to market his cotton through the best possible channel.

Micronaire readings enable him, his buyer, cooperative or other marketing outlet to channel cottons with specified micronaire readings to the mills which require that quality.

Micronaire readings can mean even more to the producer. Since cotton varies in fiber fineness even on the same farm, farmers can use the micronaire readings to help determine what conditions and what varieties are best suited to obtain high quality cotton. Varying conditions--such as frost, drought, lack of proper plant nutrients, wilt or blight, too early defoliation, and variety of cotton--cause varying degrees of fineness and maturity in cotton.

Since the micronaire reading furnishes (in addition to classing for grade and staple length) a more complete picture of the quality of a crop, it also can help the farmer improve the quality of his crop by helping correct faulty practices.

The micronaire reading can be of advantage to the entire cotton industry by furnishing a fiber property measurement which will:

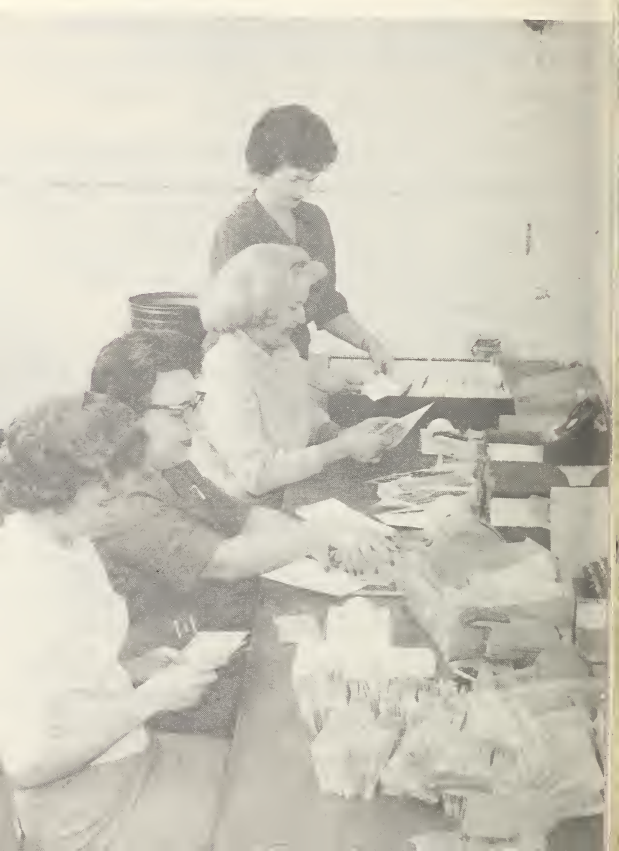
- Enable mills to determine more accurately the spinning quality of cotton.
- Allow farmers, shippers and other marketing agencies to channel cotton of varying quality to the mills for specific end uses.
- Furnish information to farmers on the growing practices and varieties of cotton which will produce the highest quality cotton in a particular area.

MICRONAIRE READING AVAILABILITY

Micronaire readings are available on cotton at a fee covering the cost of the operation.

Readings are performed on airflow instruments at Cotton Classing Offices, on samples submitted for Smith-Doxey classification.

Gins wishing to utilize the micronaire reading service should file an application with the Agricultural Marketing Service cotton classing office serving their area.



COTTON DIVISION AREA OFFICES ARE LOCATED IN:

Atlanta, Ga.	(Southeastern Area)
Memphis, Tenn.	(South Central Area)
Dallas, Texas	(Southwestern Area)
Phoenix, Ariz.	(Western Area)

COTTON DIVISION CLASSING OFFICES ARE LOCATED IN:

Southeastern Area

Atlanta, Ga.
Augusta, Ga.
Birmingham, Ala.
Columbia, S. C.
Montgomery, Ala.
* Moultrie, Ga.
Raleigh, N. C.
* Vienna, Ga.

South Central Area

Alexandria, La.
Blytheville, Ark.
Greenwood, Miss.
* Hattiesburg, Miss.
Hayti, Mo.
Jackson, Miss.
Little Rock, Ark.
Memphis, Tenn.
New Orleans, La.
* Opelousas, La.
* Prentiss, Miss.
Winnsboro, La.

Southwestern Area

Abilene, Tex.
Altus, Okla.
Austin, Tex.
* Brownfield, Tex.
Corpus Christi, Tex.
Dallas, Tex.
Galveston, Tex.
Harlingen, Tex.
Houston, Tex.
* Lamesa, Tex.
Lubbock, Tex.
* Memphis, Tex.
* Munday, Tex.
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Western Area

Bakersfield, Calif.
Carlsbad, N. Mex.
El Centro, Calif.
El Paso, Tex.
Fresno, Calif.
* Pecos, Tex.
Phoenix, Ariz.

* Seasonal offices.